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December 17, 2012

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **HOMELESS TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING**

This is to advise you of upcoming tuberculosis (TB) screening that will be occurring in the Skid Row/Central City East area of downtown Los Angeles in early January 2013. Recently, there has been a steady increase in the number of TB cases among homeless in this area. Testing of these cases has revealed a common genotype (DNA) among a significant percentage of homeless TB cases.

Attached is a graph indicating the TB cases in Los Angeles County from 1992 through 2011, including a line graph of TB among the homeless during that time period. While the overall case numbers remain low, we need to assure that this population is adequately screened and tracked to prevent further exposure to any active cases that may be found.

We are working with the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA), shelter operators, local provider clinics and hospitals, and the City of Los Angeles Office of Public Safety to review the status of TB among the homeless in this area. In addition, DPH will provide these agencies with recommendations and assistance regarding the screening and reporting of clients that present with symptoms of TB.

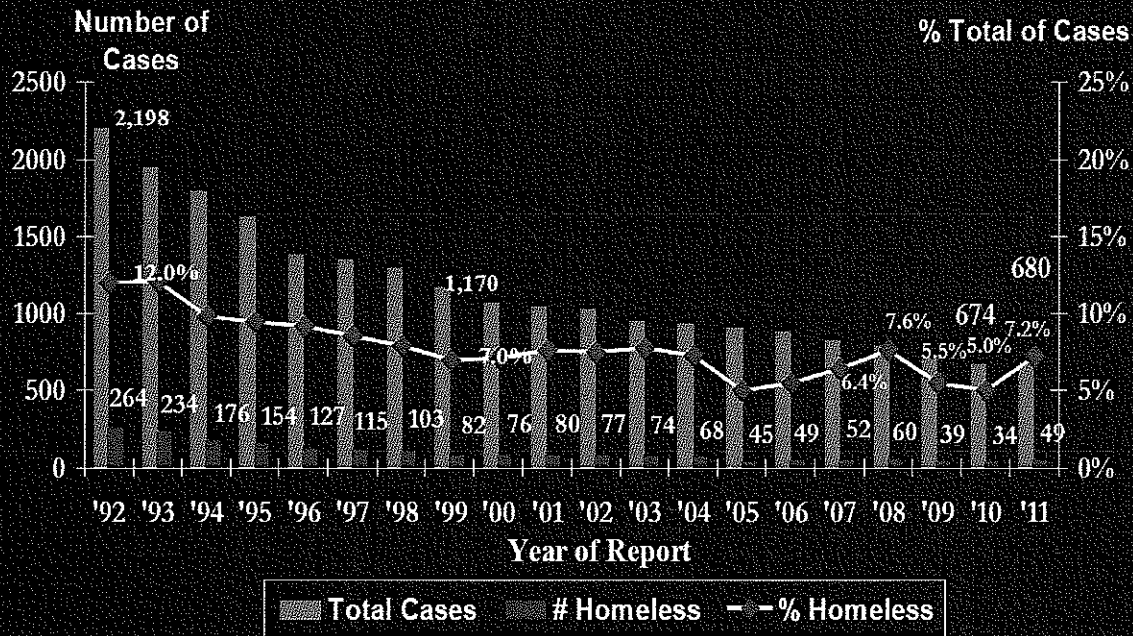
We will continue to update you as we proceed with these efforts. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know, or you may contact Deborah Davenport, Director of Community Health Services, at 213-240-8009.

JEF:dd

Attachment

c: Sheila Shima
Richard Mason
Cynthia A. Harding
Deborah Davenport

Homeless TB Cases by Year of Report Los Angeles County, 1992-2011



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

Data exclude Pasadena and Long Beach TB cases

Public Health/TB Control Program/Epidemiology & Research Unit